

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Kindly enter the following new claims.

14. (new) A method of assaying binding between (i) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:5 or fragment thereof comprising at least the amino acid sequence encoded by nucleotides 151 to 459 of SEQ ID NO:4 and (ii) a human CD28, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:5 or fragment thereof comprising at least the amino acid sequence encoded by nucleotides 151 to 459 of SEQ ID NO:4;
- (b) providing a human CD28; and
- (c) determining the binding between (i) said polypeptide or fragment thereof and (ii) said human CD28.

15. (new) A method of assaying whether or not there is inhibition of binding between (i) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:5 or fragment thereof comprising at least the amino acid sequence encoded by nucleotides 151 to 459 of SEQ ID NO:4 and (ii) a human CD28 by a candidate compound, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:5 or fragment thereof comprising at least the amino acid sequence encoded by nucleotides 151 to 459 of SEQ ID NO:4;
- (b) providing a human CD28;
- (c) providing a candidate compound; and
- (d) determining whether or not the binding between (i) said polypeptide or fragment thereof and (ii) said human CD28 is inhibited by said candidate compound.

16. (new) A method of identifying a compound which inhibits binding between (i) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:5 or fragment thereof comprising at least the amino acid sequence encoded by nucleotides 151 to 459 of SEQ ID NO:4 and (ii) a human CD28, which method comprises the steps of the method as claimed in claim 15.
17. (new) A method of identifying a compound for the treatment of a disorder involving CD28 expressing cells, which method comprises the steps of the method as claimed in claim 15.
18. (new) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the candidate compound inhibits binding of said polypeptide or fragment thereof at or near phosphorylated tyrosine 173 of said human CD28.
19. (new) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the disorder is an autoimmune disorder or cancer.
20. (new) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, graft versus host disease, transplant rejection, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, allergic asthma, and contact dermatitis.